

TRIBUTE TO 53RD ANNIVERSARY
OF WORLD WAR II EXERCISE
TIGER OPERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HULSHOF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of great and honorable Americans. On Monday, April 28, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 280 in Columbia, Missouri, will pay tribute to the 53d anniversary of the World War II Exercise Tiger operation, in which more than 750 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice.

Few Americans are aware of the circumstances surrounding the Exercise Tiger operation. What began as a top-secret military operation ended in a horrible moment frozen in time. In December 1943, the U.S. Army began conducting a number of training exercises in preparation for the Normandy invasion. These exercises concentrated on a long stretch of beach at Slapton Sands in Devon, England. This unspoiled beach of coarse gravel greatly resembled Omaha Beach, and it consequently made for an ideal simulation of what would be the D-day invasion.

Soldiers engaging in these maneuvers were under constant threat of attack, however, due to the many German E-boats patrolling the English Channel. One such exercise was utilized to prepare United States and British forces and was given the code name Exercise Tiger. These training exercises were conducted from April 22 to 30, 1944. The troops and equipment who participated in this maneuver embarked on the same ships and for the most part from the same ports from which they would later leave for France.

In the early morning hours of April 28, 1944, the convoy was maneuvering in Lyme Bay. Eight landing ship tanks and their lone British escort were en route to the landing area. Suddenly, in the pitch black night, nine German Navy E-boats patrolling the English Channel struck quickly and without warning. The presence of enemy boats was discovered only when the U.S.S. LST-507 was torpedoed. The ship burst into flames and survivors abandoned ship. Minutes later, the LST-531 was torpedoed and sank in 6 minutes. As the convoy returned fire, the U.S.S. LST-289 was also torpedoed, but was able to reach port.

The surprise German attack did not, however, stop Exercise Tiger. Landing operations resumed the next day, on April 29, 1944. This is a credit to the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved in Exercise Tiger. The D-day invasion of Normandy occurred as planned. However, casualty information and the details surrounding Exercise Tiger were not released until after the Normandy invasion in an attempt to keep the Germans from learning about the impending attack.

□ 1630

I believe, Mr. Speaker, it is time we recognize these brave men. Of the 4,000

man force, nearly a quarter were missing or dead. Official Department of Defense records confirm 749 dead, at least 441 Army and 198 Navy casualties, although facts suggest the numbers could be greater.

Mr. Speaker, it is finally time that we acknowledge the indispensable role that members of Exercise Tiger played in preparing for the D-day invasion and in making it a success. To that end, I am proud to acknowledge VFW Post 280 as the first organization in the State of Missouri to commemorate the men of the historic battle of Exercise Tiger. After 53 years these great Americans deserve to be properly honored by those who have benefited so much from their sacrifices.

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
HEROIC EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES OF THE
AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO TOOK PART IN
EXERCISE TIGER AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARD THE SUCCESS OF THE HISTORIC D-
DAY INVASION DURING WORLD WAR II

Whereas the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, was one of the most heroic battles of World War II and a critical turning point leading to Allied victory;

Whereas during the Exercise Tiger training mission for D-Day, members of the operation were exposed to great danger by carrying out this treacherous exercise in the English Channel during a period of increased German torpedo boat patrols;

Whereas on April 28, 1944, soldiers and sailors of the Exercise Tiger mission were unexpectedly attacked by 9 German Torpedo boats off the coast of Slapton Sands, England;

Whereas 749 American soldiers were killed in the attack;

Whereas the heroic efforts of these soldiers have not been sufficiently recognized in American history;

Whereas the United States Congress has not provided adequate recognition to sailors and soldiers who participated in Exercise Tiger; and

Whereas April 28, 1997 will be the 53rd anniversary of the tragedy of Exercise Tiger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Servicemen who took part in Exercise Tiger be recognized for their contributions towards the success of the historic D-Day invasion during World War II, preserving the virtues of freedom and democracy.

INDIA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER,
INDER KUMAR GUJRAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate India's new Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, for winning the vote of confidence of the Indian Parliament this past Tuesday. This vote of confidence has put an end to the 24-day government crisis and provides yet another indication that India's democratic institutions remain very strong.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Gujral is committed to strengthening United States-India ties. He has assured foreign investors that he will support free market reforms and initiatives. These

reforms have opened India to United States businesses and industries. In a recent meeting with the Indian President Sharma, he assured the President that all the economic policies of the previous government will continue and be strengthened.

Prime Minister Gujral has already shown that given the opportunity he will bring peace to South Asia. His policies as Foreign Minister in the previous government have been coined as the Gujral Doctrine. He has already laid the groundwork to ease tensions in this traditionally volatile region. As Foreign Minister for Prime Minister Gowda, Mr. Gujral helped orchestrate the Bangladesh Water Agreement, a water treaty that ended years of dispute over water sharing rights between India and Bangladesh. He supervised an accord in which India and China agreed to reduce troops along the Himalayan border.

But most important, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gujral has vowed to improve relations with Pakistan and made this the priority of India's foreign policy. Mr. Gujral helped initiate peace talks between India and Pakistan after a lull of 3 years. He is confident that the two neighbors can reach agreement in many areas through bilateral talks, and on May 12 of this year Prime Minister Gujral and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif will meet in the Maldives to discuss peace.

Mr. Speaker, what is extraordinary about these accomplishments is that they were achieved within 10 months since the united front first took charge of the Indian Government. An even stronger sign of Prime Minister Gujral's ability to bring peace to the region can be seen in the troubled region of Jammu and Kashmir. This morning Kashmiri leaders stated that they believe that the new Prime Minister could help normalize relations between Pakistan and India and bring peace to Kashmir. A popular Kashmiri separatist leader told Reuters News Service that if Mr. Gujral continues to be Prime Minister of India for a long period, I believe he can play a historic role in bringing India and Pakistan closer and solve the Kashmir problem.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Gujral is India's third Prime Minister in the last 11 months. However, as we have seen, democracy remains strong and vibrant in India. As the Prime Minister said in a speech on Monday, we can change government but the system goes on, democracy continues, and it is strengthened.

As cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I believe that Prime Minister Gujral can best lead India toward the 21st century, and I look forward to working with the Prime Minister in strengthening United States-India relations.

I want to also urge the Clinton administration, Members of this House and the Senate to support Prime Minister Gujral and assist him in bringing

peace to South Asia. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add that this year marks the 50th anniversary of India's independence. Since her birth in 1947, India has hosted free and fair elections through a multiparty political system and has maintained an orderly transfer of power from government to its successor. In light of this achievement, I would urge President Clinton and more Members of this body to visit India this year and to support this momentous occasion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

INTRODUCING THE EXPANDED WAR CRIMES ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced the Expanded War Crimes Act of 1997. It is a bill which expands the jurisdiction of my original bill, the War Crimes Act of 1996.

Last year I came before this House and told a story of a Navy pilot named Mike Cronin who had spent time as an uninvited guest of the Hanoi Hilton. I spoke of Mr. Cronin's time in Vietnam as an A-6 pilot and of his being shot down and taken prisoner of war and how he spent 6½ years living in a cage. Mike Cronin's story shocked many of you when I told you that upon his return to America he realized that while he and many others had witnessed horrible crimes of war being committed, no justice could be found within the U.S. court system because Congress had not yet enacted implementing legislation of the Geneva Convention. Well, a good number of you must have listened because I am pleased to say that last year Congress finally enacted implementing legislation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Held by the strong support of the State Department, the Defense Department, the American Red Cross, and many others, the War Crimes Act of 1996 finally signed into law legislation originally proposed back in the 83d Congress. The War Crimes Act of 1996 gave the United States the legal authority to try and prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes against American citizens. Additionally those Americans prosecuted now have available all the procedural protections of the American justice systems, quite a victory for America.

The 105th Congress cannot and should not stop there. We must protect all the rights of our men and women defending the interests of our country abroad. It is for that reason that I introduced the Expanded War Crimes Act of 1997. I stand before this body today to encour-

age my colleagues to support this expanded bill. The War Crimes Act of 1997 expands the definition of my original bill to cover not only the grave breaches of the Geneva Convention but also a more general category of war crimes. The bill also includes important articles of the Hague Convention which has long been recognized as an important source of international humanitarian law with respects to means and method of warfare, and finally it includes the international protocol on land mines thereby insuring that the delivery and indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines to harm civilians would constitute a criminal offense. While the bill is not retroactive, it can ensure that any future victims of war crimes will be given the full protection of the U.S. courts.

My colleagues, it is a bill which would rectify the existing discrepancies between our Nation's intolerance of war crimes and our inability to prosecute war criminals. Please join me as a cosponsor of this important and critical legislation.

NINTH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DINNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a situation that is an ongoing problem in this country, and that is our ability to respond to disasters and life-threatening situations. At this very moment we are witnessing nationally the response to major flooding in the Dakotas. Over the past several years we have seen a number of incidents involving loss of life and property damage caused by hurricanes and tornadoes and earthquakes and fires of tremendous magnitudes. These incidents are becoming more complicated. Within the last several hours, there has been an incident uptown in Washington, DC, involving an unknown agent where first responders in this city had to respond in special suits because they were not sure whether or not it involved a chemical or biological incident.

Mr. Speaker, day in and day out, 1.2 million men and women in this country, our domestic defenders, respond to every disaster and emergency situation that this Congress or that this country and our communities face.

On Wednesday of next week, Mr. Speaker, we will in fact host the Ninth Annual Congressional Fire and Emergency Services dinner where 2,000 of the leaders of our domestic defenders across the country from every State will assemble in Washington to again celebrate the work that these brave individuals provide. They are involved in 32,000 organized departments, they are paid and they are volunteers, and they are out there day in and day out as the first responders to America's problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join with us in paying tribute to them. Speaker GINGRICH will be our keynote speaker this year. Last year we had AL GORE and we had Bob Dole. The previous 2 years we had President Clinton. Speaker GINGRICH will in fact address these individuals and reinforce the commitment of this Congress to work on their priorities.

During Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, starting at 12:45 the Marine Corps Chemical and Biological Incident Response Team, which was created by Congress over the past year, will respond to a simulated incident involving a chemical or biological agent in the Rayburn Park. Two hundred forty marines will arrive from Camp LeJeune, and they will demonstrate our country's ability to respond to a life-threatening situation involving an unknown agent.

But, Mr. Speaker, even though our marines are the finest in the world and this team is the finest in the world today, the first responders who have to go on these scenes in the first few minutes are those most at risk, and they are the ones that we have to make sure have the proper protection, the proper training, and the resources to meet these threats until reinforcements can in fact be provided by our military and by the marine response unit.

On Wednesday during the day and the evening, we will focus on this group of people and we will discuss the key priorities that we in this Congress can focus on to assist these 1.2 million men and women to better serve their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to join with us both during the day at the information sessions, meetings that will be held in Member offices, and finally on Wednesday evening to the Washington Hilton to attend the ninth annual dinner.

Mr. Speaker, there are no braver group of people in this country who respond to every type of disaster that we face as a nation, and many of them are not being paid to respond, and it is appropriate that we in the Congress provide the appropriate resources and support to allow them to continue to serve America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION ACT—H.R. 1428

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I and 16 other colleagues are introducing the Voter Eligibility Verification Act, H.R. 1428. I think most American citizens would say that the very hallmark of citizenship is the right to cast one's vote and to have it counted. But in America we have increasingly situations where people who are not American citizens are voting, and local registrars and State chief election officers